



MAURICE W. BLANCHETTE
First Selectman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND

INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P. O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

TEL 870-3100 FAX 870-3102
www.ellington-ct.gov

JAMES M. PRICHARD
Deputy First Selectman

LAURIE E. BURSTEIN
A. LEO MILLER, JR.
LORI L. SPIELMAN
RONALD F. STOMBERG
JOHN W. TURNER

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, May 17, 2010

Town Hall - Meeting Hall

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Maurice Blanchette, Laurie Burstein, A. Leo Miller, James Prichard, Lori Spielman [7:40], Ronald Stomberg, John Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicholas DiCorleto, Finance Director, George Fetko, Director, Public Works, Peter Hany, Sr., President, Ellington Ambulance Corps, Peter Sanborn, President, Community Opportunities Group, Inc., and Larry Smith, Hartford Courant

PUBLIC HEARING: – Small Cities Grant Application

First Selectman Maurice Blanchette opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. and read the attached legal notice.

Comments: Mr. Miller referred to notice Exhibit 9-G from a previous handout stating that it indicates up to 1 to 3 family units are eligible and he asked for clarification, as his understanding is that the program is for 1 to 4 family units. Mr. Sanborn noted that it is a mistake and it should read 1 to 4 family units. Mr. Miller noted that on page 2, of Exhibit 4.2, the allocation of dollars is indicated and he asked why there aren't any dollars designated for Suffield for priority status. Mr. Sanborn referred to the footnote at the bottom of the page explaining that Suffield had previously operated their own housing rehab program so they have a modest amount of program income. Mr. Miller asked if the undesignated fund could be \$50,000 maximum; Mr. Sanborn confirmed that each fund could be \$50,000 maximum. Mr. Sanborn noted that this is a program income plan. It is a plan for the Town for how it will spend money that comes back to the Town when a property that was assisted before is sold, which is separate from the grant request that the Town is considering. The reason for doing this is because without a more complicated plan with these multiple funds, the maximum the Town could have on hand for program income is \$50,000. This provides for an exception where the Town can accumulate more and still be directly spending an open grant.

Ms. Spielman arrived to the meeting at this time.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Blanchette closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Board of Selectmen:

I. CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Blanchette called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 7:43 p.m.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM:

No one came forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. April 26, 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2010.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO NEW BUSINESS, ITEM F, *PER TOWN CHARTER SECTION 1008 - EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION: APPROPRIATION OF \$78,000 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO ACCOUNT 1060 – BUILDING DEMOLITION/EVICTIONS.*

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$109.40, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENT STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2010. **(ATTACHED)**

B. Annual Review - Parachute Activity at Ellington Airport:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THAT THE WAIVER TO PERMIT DELAYED PARACHUTE JUMPING AT ELLINGTON AIRPORT BE RENEWED FOR ONE YEAR.

C. Award Contract – Preparation of Small Cities Grant Application FY 2010:

2010 Small Cities Grant Program:

1. Approval to Apply:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to Public Law 93 -3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Ellington make application to the State in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Ellington in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Ellington.
3. That it adopts or has adopted as its policy to support the following nondiscrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a)(1) of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, respectively, as amended by Public Act 07-142, and for which purposes the "contractor" is the Town of Ellington and "contract" is said Assistance Agreement:

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut. The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation.

2. Authorize the First Selectman to Sign Joint Community Agreements:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE THE JOINT COMMUNITY APPLICATION COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AND THE TOWN OF SOMERS, AND THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AND THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD, AND TO TAKE ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY REGARDING JOINT PARTICIPATION IN THE ELLINGTON HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM, TO BE FUNDED THROUGH A CONNECTICUT SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

3. Approval of Program Income Plan:

Mr. Blanchette asked Mr. Sanborn to review the corrections to Exhibit 4.2, Town of Ellington Program Income Plan. Mr. Sanborn referred to the last paragraph on page 3 and changed "total administration" to "total combined administration" in the second and third sentences.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH CORRECTIONS TO APPROVE THE PROGRAM INCOME PLAN FOR THE 2010 CONNECTICUT SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, AS SUBMITTED AND RECOMMENDED BY PETER SANBORN, PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE OF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

D. Sale of 2003 Ambulance:

Mr. Blanchette noted that several months ago, Mr. Hany stated that there was interest in the 2003 ambulance and there was a bidding process. The bids were discussed and the following motion was made:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE OFFER FROM AMBULANCE SERVICE OF MANCHESTER, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,500. FOR THE SALE OF THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS [EVAC] 2003 AMBULANCE, AS IS WITH NO WARRANTY.

Mr. Hany asked if it should be written that the money for the sale of the ambulance will go into the EVAC Charging Fund or is it just assumed. Mr. Blanchette noted that it is not assumed and that it is customary for funds brought in by departments of the Town to be designated to the general fund. He noted that the ambulance that is being sold belongs to the Town of Ellington, and therefore, the proceeds from the sale belong to the Town, and the money goes to the Undesignated Fund Balance. He added that if the money were to be designated to the EVAC Charging Fund, it would have to be determined by the BOS. Discussion was held regarding the budget designation for the proceeds from the sale of the ambulance, and Mr. Turner suggested that he would like the EVAC to submit a letter of request to the BOS to be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Blanchette reiterated that the system is set up so that all income associated with Town activities comes into the Town and that is why budgets are set up every year. He added that the BOS listens to Department Heads and tries to implement their suggestions most of the time to the extent possible; except when money is tight. Mr. Blanchette said that for instance, Mr. Fetko could use more money for his department, but Public Works doesn't bring in much money. Mr. Hany said that he will compose a letter and submit it to Mr. Blanchette. Mr. Blanchette thanked Mr. Hany and his agency for taking good care of the ambulance. He added that the care taken clearly added to the value of the vehicle.

E. Re-establish Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee:

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE FOR ANOTHER YEAR TO MAY 31, 2011

F. Per Town Charter Section 1008 - Emergency Appropriation: Appropriation of \$78,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance to Account 1060 – Building Demolition/Evictions:

Mr. Blanchette noted that Mr. Fetko is prepared to discuss this agenda item. Mr. Fetko noted that this motion includes the demolition of 138 Windermere Avenue, an unoccupied Town-owned property that has fallen into complete disarray. The structure is failing, the roof is open and the building is unsafe. There are concerns that this truly hazardous property could be a liability, especially if children attempt to enter. Mr. Fetko also added that the neighbors have tolerated this unsightly property long enough. Mrs. Burstein asked if there is asbestos within the structure. Mr. Fetko said that an environmental review has been done and there is asbestos. The abatement process is fairly reasonable at \$40,000. The Department of Public Works will clean the property. Mr. Blanchette said that the lot could be used as a building lot as long as the original footprint is used. The remainder of the money is to offset the shortage used to complete the Miner property.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION, PURSUANT TO TOWN CHARTER SECTION 1008, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,000 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO ACCOUNT 1060 – BUILDING DEMOLITION/EVICTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING HAZARDOUS/ UNSAFE CONDITIONS, PENDING BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: So noted, except as follows:

- G. State Police: Mr. Miller asked if the Ellington Trooper's Monthly Report could differentiate between the arrests and the warnings. Mr. Turner noted that this may be the manner in which the information comes from the computer system. Mrs. Burstein agreed that she would appreciate the clarification as well, to know what is going on within Town. Mr. Blanchette said that he would put in this request.

VII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Personnel Committee:
1. Resignations: none
 2. Recommended Appointments:

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DAVID ARZT, JEAN BURNS, MONIQUE BURNS, RODGER HOSIG AND WILLIAM MERSON TO THE AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS TO MAY 31, 2011.

- B. Other: None

VIII. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS: There were none.

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: There was no report.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: There was none.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:39 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE FOLLOWING:

The full board was present during this Executive Session.

1. DISCUSSION OF PENDING LITIGATION
2. DISCUSSION OF SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED AT 8:53 P.M.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (SPIELMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:54 P.M.

Submitted by  Approved by 
LouAnn Cannella Maurice Blanchette

